

March 15, 2012

Public Health Committee

Legislative Office Building

Hartford, CT

Re: Raised Bill #5498, An Act Concerning Changes To The Funeral Service Statutes

Good morning.

My name is Daniel P. Jowdy of Danbury, CT, a licensed embalmer and current Chair of the CT Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (the State Board).

I am in favor of Raised Bill # 5498 in part and request the one section be considered in the next session of the General Assembly and one part be considered for revision.

Sec. 3, Section 20-230-a currently maintains a higher requirement of funeral directors in dealing with the general public that amending the section to consider the Federal Trade Commission Standard referred to a 16 CFR 453.2 which relaxes the current standard that Connecticut adheres to than the Federal Standard. This is an area of needed review by the Department of Health, Department of Consumer Protection and Office of the Attorney General.

Sec. 2, Subsection (g) of section 20-222, does not make reference to a current Public Act which needs to be incorporated in this piece of legislation. Notification must be made through public media as well. Very often, residents of nursing homes and elderly are moved from one nursing home to another or are taken in by family members, although required in pre-need to notify the funeral home that hold preneed they don't. Therefore, it would be necessary to follow the Public Act which mandates funeral homes that move records from one location to another for reasons of incorporating, merging and curtailing business to serve notice to the general public via the newspaper most widely read in that area two times at least 7 to 10 days apart of the transfer of the records. Nor does it make provisions for any state agency that is involved with funeral homes have access and be able to inspect the records if need be during normal business hours. This too needs to be revamped to allow for the provisions that would be affected by this legislation as it presently raised.

Good and viable legislation but these two parts certainly need fine tuning not to affect present legislation.

I request these two parts be withdrawn for further review and language.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Jowdy, Chairman